A ROAD MAP TO PRISON REFORMS

Making The Most and Best of

INMATES

J.Blest

ABOUT THE BOOK

I have written this book to share my thoughts on how to make the most and best of prison inmates with the hope that the ideas shared in this book will be considered, perfected and implemented by those in authority so as to bring a change in the lives of inmates,their families and the society at large.

The aspect of making the most of inmates will deal with the practical dimension that can be adapted in the running of prisons while the aspect of making the best of inmates will deal with the spiritual dimension of transforming inmates from the inside out.

It is my hope and prayer that those in positions of authority that relate to making policies on the running of prisons will read this material, consider it and seek ways of implementing the thoughts shared in this booklet.

Note: The books by J.Blest are available on Amazon under;

https://amazon.com/J-

Julius Blest / Mobile: +254723463391 / +254742895056

Email: j2blest@gmail.com

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

INTRODUCTION

I have written this book to share my thoughts on how to make the most and best of prison inmates with the hope that the ideas shared in this book will be considered, perfected and implemented by those in authority so as to bring a change in the lives of inmates, their families and the society at large.

The aspect of making the most of inmates will deal with the practical dimension that can be adapted in the running of prisons while the aspect of making the best of inmates will deal with the spiritual dimension of transforming inmates from the inside out.

I strongly believe the running of prisons in any county can be done in such a manner that a prisoner can still earn a decent living while in prison and also experience a transformation in heart and mind so that they totally

forsake any evil practice that may have caused their imprisonment.

It is my hope and prayer that those in positions of authority that relate to making policies on the running of prisons will read this material, consider it and seek ways of implementing the thoughts shared in this booklet.

It is my prayer that the living conditions of prisoners will be made better even as the lives of the prisoners are transformed.

This book has been written with Kenya as a country in mind, however, the suggestions shared in this book can be implemented in any country in the world.

J.Blest

ANALYSIS

FREE AT LAST | Prisoner released
LABAN WALLOGA | NATION
Mr James Mulumbu celebrates with GK King'orani Prison inmates after his release yesterday. Mr Mulumbu, from Machakos County, had served a 20-year jail term. He left the jail armed with a carpentry toolbox and Sh2,000 to start his life in freedom afresh.

Let us analyses the following picture and caption which appeared in the Daily Nation on July 18th 2012 and ask ourselves "Is this the best and most we could do?

The words under the picture are:

> *LABAN WALLOGA \ NATION*
>
> *Mr James Mulumbu celebrates with GK King'orani prison inmates after his release yesterday. Mr Mulumbu, from Machakos County, had served a 20-year jail term. He left the jail armed with a carpentry toolbox and Sh2,000 to start his life in freedom afresh.*

Let us calculate the amount of money that Mr James "earned" while in prison if we assume he spent 10 actual years in prison for his 20-year jail term (considering a day and night is counted as two days for some offenses).

Income Mr James got from his 20 year jail term

A year has 12 months.

10 years has a total of 120 months.

2000/= divide by the 120 months = 16.6 shillings.

Mr James earned a total of 16.6 shillings every month for the ten actual years he spent in prison.

The above analysis of what Mr James earned while in prison leads me to ask "Is this the best we can do as prison institutions and is this the most we can make for and from inmates?

Join me as I share with you some of my suggestions on making the best and most of inmates. We will begin with the aspect of making the most of inmates.

CHAPTER ONE

MAKING THE MOST OF INMATES

Making the most of inmates deals with viewing prisoners as human capital. This means moving away from the mentality of just punishing inmates for their crimes and asking ourselves how can we all (institution and prisoner) profit from each other?

Making the most of inmates deals with seeing beyound the rottenness of the prisoner to the good or profitability of the prisoner.

Making the most of prisoners involves understanding that the most destructive force, element, substance, or person can also be the most potentially useful if handled and directed in the right path.

So how can we make the most of prison inmates? The following are some of my thoughts;

Special Prisons or Centers

Making the most of inmates can be done by putting up special prisons all over the nation. These special prisons or centers should be structured in such a way that they meet the following three objectives;

1) Teach and train inmates on certain specific skills

2) Produce specific goods or services

3) Employ the trained inmates

Let us look at each of the above objectives individually

1) Teaching and training certain skills

Special prisons should be built or old prisons remodeled to special prisons to offer specific training to inmates on such areas like shoe making, soap making, mechanical works, tailoring etc.

The prisons should be equipped with the necessary infrastructure like classes and equipments needed to train the inmates on the course or courses offered.

Qualified teachers should be employed to train the inmates on the courses offered. The teaching staff should not just be limited to free citizens but also to prisoners who have distinguished themselves in the particular course.

2) Produce specific goods or services

The special prisons should not only train and equip the inmates on the specific courses they offer but endeavour to produce goods and services that are similar to their training and market the same locally and internationally.

3) Employ the trained inmates

Inmates who have been trained and are now skillful in the production of the specified goods and services should then be employed and begin to earn an income from the very goods and services they produce.

The special prisons should come up with ways of marketing the goods and services the inmates or special prisons produce and make a profit both for the special

prison and for the individual inmate who worked to produce those goods or services.

The special prison should make a certain percentage of profit for the time invested in training the inmate and for providing the raw materials while the inmate should also get a certain percentage of the profit for the specific work he or she has done in producing the product or service.

THE PROCESS

Let me now discuss how the above three objectives can be implemented:

1) Private Organizations

The government should enter into public/private partnerships with individuals and corporations in the building of these special prisons. Cooperate organizations should do this as part of their corporate responsibility to society.

Corporate organizations can acquire land from the government and build these institutions or buy their own land, build the institutions and manage the special prisons

with seconded staff such as prison guards/wardens or training staff from the various Government ministries.

Corporate organizations stand to benefit by aligning the special prisons to their particular need. For example a company that deals with shoe making can fulfill all the three objectives of the special prisons by training inmates on how to make shoes, allow inmate to make some of their shoes and finally employ the skilled inmates as their employees and pay their salaries from the goods they are now producing in the special prison.

Families whose breadwinners have been convicted and shut in prison to serve time do not have to go hungry because the breadwinner can be trained in a particular field or continue in the trade or skill they had before committing a crime and continue providing for their families while still

in prison through the goods or services that they are producing.

Some of the sectors that can benefit from partnering with the government in special prisons include but are not limited to

- The ICT sector – I believe there are those who are ICT gurus who are rotting in jail doing some manual work like farming or cutting grass in some government premise instead of their brains being put to work in some special prison where they can continue programming and coming up with innovations whose profit would make any free man envious.

- Technical sectors such as those that deal with wood work, steal works, tailoring etc.

- Catering sector- Inmates can be trained to bake bread, cakes and other foodstuffs which can be sold to the society.

- Religious groups – Religious groups can give their followers or leaders who have being caught on the wrong side of the law a softer landing by running their own special prisons. This can apply to priests, pastors, bishops who for whatever reason end up in prison.

Almost all kinds of organizations or institutions can harness the work force or human capital of those in prison and make it to suit their vision while at the same time improve the lives of inmates while in prison.

This is a win, win situation in whatever way you look at it.

2) Interview

I suggest the following administrative steps once a person is declared guilty and worthy of prison time;

All convicted prisoners should undergo an interview to determine if they can be incorporated into the special prisons that are operational. The interview sheet should have some of the following questions

- What work were you doing before your conviction?

These should help determine if they already had a career before their conviction.

- Do you have any special skills?

This question seeks to discover if the person has any talent or ability they have not put to use in their lives. There are people who do one type of work but are also gifted and skilled in other areas that can be very beneficial to them and others if harnessed.

* There are many who have left their regular jobs to pursue and make a living out of their talents and have prospered and excelled beyond what they could have been able to do had they stayed in their regular job.

- What was your childhood dream? or What did you want to be when you grow up?

This question will help to see if those dreams can still be made a reality. Some dreams in inmates did not come to

pass because of lack of facilitation, wrong choices but can now through special prisons find expression and fulfillment and become a great benefit to the inmate, their family and the society at large.

- What give you a lot of joy in life and what makes you angry?

These questions are two sides of one coin. What gives a person great joy or anger is normally an indication of what the person is supposed to be doing in life while what angers someone is also an indication of what they are able to fix in life.

3) Placement

Once an assessment has been done on where best a convict should be placed within the special prisons they should then seek to find out if there is space to accommodate them in the place. If there is space the prisoner should be sent there and if there is no space then the person should be put in a waiting list since opportunity will be created through

the release of an inmate, the death of an inmate or the expansion of the capacity of the facility to hold more inmates.

4) Loans

Government can advance loans to inmates who are trained and skilled so that they continue to produce specific goods and services which are marketable. The loans can be used to buy the raw material or provide all that is needed to continue to produce the goods and services that they produce while in those special prisons. The loan repayment should be done from the profit made from the goods or services offered by the inmate.

5) Marketing

The government and corporate organizations should then have places where they can market the goods that are produced by the prisoners. Such goods can have special brand names so that people in society can be encouraged to buy those good so as to help prisoners earn a living out of

their work. These goods and services can also be subsidized to increase their competitiveness in the market.

6) Cooperates

Cooperates can place a demand for certain skills and talents to the arresting and convicting authorities so that prisoners who meet certain criteria are considered for their special prisons.

7) Competitive bidding

In the future I foresee a case scenario where an inmate is highly sort for by different companies or cooperates because of his value and is therefore given a chance to choose which special prison and under which company he would like to work for based on their offer to him.

Take an example of a man who has a name in the ICT sector for his innovative programming and is convicted for a crime that will require him to spend several years in prison. Now consider if two competing ICT companies have partnered with the government to have their own special

prisons to absorb those with ICT knowledge. It is possible that both companies may want the inmate to be a resident in their special prison and at the end of the day the prisoner can be given a choice to which special prison he will go based on the terms and contract the companies are offering him.

The above scenario may look far-fetched for now but it is not. It is all about how we view prisoners. What value did they have before their conviction? What value have we attached to them?

CHAPTER TWO

MAKING THE BEST OF INMATES

Making the best of inmates deals with transforming their minds and hearts so that their thoughts, words, actions, purposes and desires are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report.

> Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Prison facilities should be correctional places where inmates become better people and not worse.

How can inmates be made better people?

In this section I will address one aspect that I am sure will help transform inmates from inside out and make them better people.

1) The Gospel Of Jesus Christ

> *Psalms 142:7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.*
>
> *Matthew 25:36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

Making the best of inmates can best be done through the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the best and surest way of transforming the lives of inmates both within the prison institutions and outside the prison institutions. A change of heart is what leads to a change of lifestyle. If the heart and mind of a person is not changed then they will return to the

old bad habits or deeds that lead them to prison when they come out.

The roadmap to prison reforms must first begin by realizing that an imprisoned soul is the biggest contribution to a person becoming a physically imprisoned inmate because imprisoned souls do deeds that are lead to their conviction and sentencing.

It is those whose hearts are imprisoned in sin that do deeds that lead them to be put in physical prisons. If the hearts is changed and transformed then there will be less people who are put in prison.

> Mark 7:21-23 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that liberates the soul of man from the prison of sin and removes the murders, thefts and wickedness that leads people to commit crimes that land them in prison.

It is therefore imperative to allow the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ to continue unhindered in prison institutions so as to get the end result of transformed lives.

Consider the following scripture which reveals how an unprofitable person can be changed through the preaching an teaching of God's word and by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and savior become someone who is now fruitful and useful in life.

> Philemon 1:10-11 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

Onesimus who was a run-away slave of Philemon encountered Paul while he was in prison, received the

preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, was converted and become a changed person. The change and the transformation that Onesimus encountered through the gospel of Jesus Christ preached by Apostle Paul so changed his life making him who was once unprofitable and irresponsible now profitable.

That is what the gospel of Jesus Christ will do in every prison where it is shared. It will change and transform evil men and women and make them holy men and women who even after they have finished their prison terms will not come out of prison to return to their old evil ways but will become profitable people in society.

LET THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BE PREACHED IN EVERY PRISON FOR THE TRANFORMATION OF INMATES.

This is the best way to make the best of inmates.

OTHER WRITINGS BY J.BLEST

Number 1-21 are all available on Amazon.com

1) Dear Pastor / Church Minister – Key Concepts In Ministry Operations

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J.Blest is a minister of the gospel with a calling to teach, preach and minister healing. He resides in Kenya with his family.

He may be contacted for ministry engagements, publishing or printing work through;

Email: j2blest@gmail.com (and copy) j2blest@yahoo.com

Tel: +254742895056, +254723 463391

Note: The books by J.Blest are available on Amazon under;
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